

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,990,697 to *Kazama*.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 stand allowable if rewritten into independent form.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has added new claim 8. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are presently pending.

Rejections under 102

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,990,697 to *Kazama*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 1, as originally presented, Applicants respectfully submit that *Kazama* does not teach or suggest a combination comprising a conductive block, as recited. The Office Action asserts that *Kazama* shows a conductive block, but does not expressly equate the claimed conductive block with any disclosed element of *Kazama*. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that none of element 2, element 3 and element 4 of *Kazama* is a “conductive block” as claimed because they are described in *Kazama* as insulating plates. Thus, none of these elements can be equated with a conductive block.

With further respect to independent claim 1, as originally presented, Applicants respectfully submit that *Kazama* does not teach or suggest a combination comprising a conductive pipe. The Examiner suggests that coarsely wound segment 7b of the compression coil spring 7 is a “conductive pipe” as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not equate a conductive pipe and a coarsely wound segment of a compression coil spring.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn because *Kazama* does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim 1, as originally presented. Additionally, support for newly added claim 8 may be found in the Applicants’ Specification, for example, page 10, lines 19-21 and Fig. 1B. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-8 are allowable because of dependence from independent claim 1, as originally presented, and the reasons set forth above.

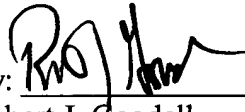
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant’s respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants’ undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: Oct 12, 2005

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